RESEARCH ARCHIVES

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Introduction

The mission of the Research Archives has expanded rapidly over the last decade with the adoption of technology, the compilation of "big data," and the rise of Digital Humanities. Although at the core the library serves to facilitate research about the ancient Near East for the faculty, staff, students, and members of the Oriental Institute, our audience and services have greatly diversified. Assisting with printed materials is now just one of many tasks we perform for our patrons and we often find ourselves helping with digital resources, accessing online databases, or determining how to look up information in an online platform. We are commonly providing digital scans of materials to researchers around the world and our volunteers work on projects from across the Institute such as assisting with digitization for museum registration and cataloging for museum archives. This change has been accelerated by the implementation of the Integrated Database, which now helps us record, organize, and share data about our collections (see separate report). As libraries morph to better accommodate this developing landscape, it is important to reflect on our core mission in the face of mission creep.

Our role is to ensure that researchers can easily and efficiently access the information needed to develop new understandings of the cultures of the ancient Near East. We seek to help find, interpret, and share that understanding, with our academic colleagues, our institutional cohorts, and the general public. Each year the Research Archives plays a key role in this network. By staying committed to print publications, the Research Archives maintains control over access and usage of materials. It also provides a sustainable, long-term foundation during this time of burgeoning, but often tenuous, digital information — an era for which many believe we face a "digital dark age." If certain sectors of digital scholarship on the ancient Near East disappear in the next twenty-five to fifty years, which is likely given the histories of their print analogues, paper copies may actually be the most reliable "back up." It is our mission to develop, preserve, conserve, and grow these collections, but more importantly to make sure they are used. Like the growing popularity of artisanal products, service in the Research Archives relies on a specialized knowledge base, which allows us to provide for library patrons in a way that general reference librarians or shared services cannot. We want to merge the traditional with the non-traditional, the print with the digital, the library catalog with the cultural lexicon, to transform how we work with data and how we understand the ancient world. Over the last academic year, the Research Archives staff and volunteers have worked thousands of hours on a variety of projects for the Oriental Institute to make this happen.

Acquisitions

The Research Archives had another healthy year of growth during 2016–2017, acquiring 1,131 volumes in 301 accession lots (table 1). Nearly one third of these volumes consisted of

journals, with monographs, serials, theses, and pamphlets occupying the other two thirds. These numbers reflect print volumes exclusively.

Table 1. Research Archives Acquisitions July 2016–June 2017

Month	Number of Accession Lots	Monographs, Series, Pamphlets	Journals	Total Volumes
July 2016	21	36	49	85
August 2016	26	61	10	71
September 2016	38	45	34	79
October 2016	16	51	10	61
November 2016	25	77	15	92
December 2016	33	36	33	69
January 2017	9	100	7	107
February 2017	20	39	32	71
March 2017	41	76	99	175
April 2017	19	87	19	106
May 2017	27	93	12	105
June 2017	26	59	51	110
Totals	301	760	371	
Total Volumes				**1,131**

Online Catalog

Since the fall of 2007, the online catalog has grown by over 340,000 records, averaging over 25,000 records per year (table 2). This average has declined since the apex in 2008–2009, which had been due primarily to the processing of backlogged data migrated from old databases. In 2016–2017, we added another 10,000 records, all processed and cataloged manually by the staff and volunteers of the Research Archives. We continued to improve the public face of the catalog by adding summary/abstract, language, and acronym fields to the search and display. Each record also now has a stable URL that allows users to confidently link to the record. All of these updates are discussed in the annual report for the Integrated Database Project.

Analytics from the Research Archives catalog show the breakdowns in the types of material in the collection (table 3).

Table 2. Catalog Records

Year	Number of Catalog Records Added	Total Number of Catalog Records
2016–2017	10,000	535,000
2015–2016	15,000	525,000
2014–2015	20,000	510,000
2013–2014	30,000	490,000
2012–2013	40,000	460,000
2011–2012	30,000	420,000
2010–2011	30,000	390,000
2009–2010	40,000	360,000
2008–2009	63,000	320,000
2007–2008	62,000	257,000
2006–2007	28,000	195,000
—	—	—
2003–2004	10,000	130,000

Table 3. Research Archives Analytics

Type	Total Number of Catalog Records
Total Volumes	64,747
Monographs	15,999
Monograph Sections	63,908
Series	1,371
Series Volumes	20,112
Series Volume Sections	85,262
Journals	943
Journal Volumes	27,609
Journal Volume Articles	307,732
Thesis	1,018
Pamphlets	2,522
Reviews	118,695
Festschriften	569
Digital Invoice Records	1,226
Digital Cover Art Records	5,380
Adobe PDF	18,512

Readers will immediately see that journal articles represent well over half the total number of database records (307,732 of 535,000). Scholars will find especially useful our indexing of journals, conference proceedings, and Festschriften, all the records of which are available for download through our online catalog (oi-idb.uchicago.edu) in formats compatible with major bibliographic software platforms (e.g., EndNote, Zotero).

Among those items cataloged in the past academic year, a selection of interesting material completed by Oriental Institute scholars, published outside of OI publication venues, can be highlighted. The following list is organized alphabetically based on the last name of the current Oriental Institute faculty or staff member listed as an author.

1. Emily Hammer and Anthony J. Lauricella. "Historical Imagery of Desert Kites in Eastern Jordan." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 80 (2017): 74–83.

2. Janet H. Johnson. "Compound Nouns, Especially Abstracts, in Demotic." *In Illuminating Osiris: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Mark Smith*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Ghislaine Widmer, pp. 163–71. Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2017.

3. Pierre Tallet and Grégory Marouard. "The Harbor Facilities of King Khufu on the Red Sea Shore: The Wadi al-Jarf/Tell Ras Budran System." *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 52 (2016): 135–77.

4. Kiersten A. Neumann. "Gods Among Men: Fashioning the Divine Image in Assyria." In *What Shall I Say of Clothes?: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to the Study of Dress in Antiquity*, edited by Megan Cifarelli and Laura Gawlinski, pp. 3–23. Selected Papers on Ancient Art and Architecture 3. Boston: The Archaeological Institute of America, 2017.

5. Jason Ur and James F. Osborne. "The Rural Landscape of the Assyrian Hinterland: Recent Results from Arbail and Kilizu Provinces." In *The Provincial Archaeology of the Assyrian Empire*, edited by John MacGinnis, Dirk Wicke, and Tina Greenfield, pp. 163–74. McDonald Institute Monographs. Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2016.

6. Myles Lavan, Richard E. Payne, and John Weisweiler (eds.). *Cosmopolitanism and Empire: Universal Rulers, Local Elites, and Cultural Integration in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*. Oxford Studies in Early Empires. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

7. Richard Payne. "Territorializing Iran in Late Antiquity: Autocracy, Aristocracy, and the Infrastructure of Empire." In *Ancient States and Infrastructural Power: Europe, Asia, and America*, edited by Clifford Ando and Seth Richardson, pp. 179–217. Empire and After. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

8. Robert K. Ritner. "Oriental Institute Museum Notes 16: Two Egyptian Clepsydrae (OIM E16875 and A7125)." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 75:2 (2016): 361–89.

9. Robert K. Ritner. "Pantheistic Figures in Ancient Egypt." In *Illuminating Osiris: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Mark Smith*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Ghislaine Widmer Widmer, pp. 319–24. Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2017.

10. Austin (Chad) Hill and Yorke M. Rowan. "Droning on in the Badia: UAVs and Site Documentation at Wadi al-Qattafi." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 80 (2017): 114–23.

11. Virginia R. Herrmann and J. David Schloen. "Assyrian Impact on the Kingdom of Sam'al: The View from Zincirli." In *The Provincial Archaeology of the Assyrian Empire*, edited by John MacGinnis, Dirk Wicke, and Tina Greenfield, pp. 265–74. McDonald Institute Monographs. CAMBRIDGE: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2016.

12. Oğuz Soysal. "On Recent Cuneiform Editions of Hittite Fragments (III): Review of *Texte aus dem Bezirk des Grossen Temples III*, by Marie-Claude Trémouille. Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi 51 (Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag, 2009)." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 136 (2016): 417–38.

13. Michael T. Fisher and Gil J. Stein. "Aks of War: A Digital Museum Inventory for a War-Torn Afghanistan." In *Proceedings of the 9th International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East: Volume 1: Travelling Images — Transfer and Transformation of Visual Ideas, Dealing with the Past: Finds, Booty, Gifts, Collections at Risk: Sustainable Strategies for Managing Near Eastern Archaeological Collections*, edited by Rolf A. Stucky, Oskar Kaelin, Hans-Peter Mathys, and Andrew S. Jamieson, pp. 449–63. International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East 9. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2016.

14. Virginia R. Herrmann, Theo van den Hout, and Ahmet Beyazlar. "A New Hieroglyphic Luwian Inscription from Pancarlı Höyük: Language and Power in Early Iron Age Sam'al-Y'DY." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 75 (2016): 53–70.

15. John Zhu-En Wee. "Virtual Moons over Babylonia: The Calendar Text System, Its Micro-Zodiac of 13, and the Making of Medical Zodiology." In *The Circulation of Astronomical Knowledge in the Ancient World*, edited by John M. Steele, pp. 139–229. Time, Astronomy, and Calendars 6. Leiden: Brill, 2016.

16. Donald S. Whitcomb, Michael Jennings, Andrew Creekmore, and Ignacio Arce. "Khirbet al-Mafjar: New Excavations and Hypotheses for an Umayyad Monument." *Near Eastern Archaeology* 79 (2016): 78–87.

We continue to add links to online material, both new and old (table 4). Currently, there are over 118,000 links to online material in the Research Archives catalog (roughly 23% of all catalog records). Journal articles available online, either through subscription or open access, constitute the bulk of these links. However, we also link to items available elsewhere on the internet, including books, dissertations, series, and manuscripts.

Table 4. Links to Journal Articles

Journal	Links	Access
Journal of the American Oriental Society	15,573	JSTOR
Catholic Biblical Quarterly	12,585	Ebsco
American Journal of Archaeology	11,757	JSTOR/AJA
Antiquity	11,324	Antiquity
Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik	8,473	JSTOR
Syria	6,010	JSTOR
Journal of Near Eastern Studies	5,424	JSTOR/JNES
Journal of Egyptian Archaeology	4,428	JSTOR
Biblica	3,910	Open
Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research	3,825	JSTOR
Palestine Exploration Quarterly	3,533	Ebsco
Zeitschrift für Assyriologie	3,305	Open/De Gruyter
Göttinger Miszellen	3,110	DigiZeitschriften
Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft	2,955	Open
Near Eastern Archaeology (formerly Biblical Archaeologist)	2,575	JSTOR
Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres. Comptes rendus	2,346	Open
Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale	2,021	Open
Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient	1,496	JSTOR
Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt	1,374	JSTOR
Aula Orientalis	1,152	Open
Bibliotheca Orientalis	1,143	Peeters
Journal of Cuneiform Studies	1,141	JSTOR
Iraq	1,140	JSTOR
Review of Biblical Literature	1,092	Open
Studien zur Altägyptische Kultur	929	JSTOR
Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean	858	Open
Anatolian Studies	847	JSTOR
Iran	729	JSTOR
Forschungen und Berichte	698	JSTOR
Oriental Institute News & Notes	574	Open
Orient: Report of the Society for Near Eastern Studies in Japan	479	Open
Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society	378	Open
Sudan and Nubia	355	Open
Bulletin: Société d'Égyptologie Genève	315	Open
Journal of Hebrew Scriptures	250	Open
Ars Orientalis	249	JSTOR
Aeragram	239	Open
Cahiers de Karnak	189	Open
British Museum Studies in Ancient Egypt and Sudan	134	Open
Égypte Nilotique et Méditerranéenne	125	Open
Achaemenid Research on Texts and Archaeology	102	Open

Cuneiform Digital Library Notes	92	Open
Cuneiform Digital Library Journal	62	Open
Lingua Aegyptia	47	Open
Cuneiform Digital Library Bulletin	54	Open
ASDIWAL: Revue Genevoise d'Anthropologie et d'Histoire des Religions	41	Open
Studia Orontica	37	Open
Mitteilungen der Sudanarchäologischen Gesellschaft zu Berlin	29	Open
Zeitschrift für Antikes Christentum	25	De Gruyter
Total	**119,529**	

Resources on the Web

In addition to the online catalog, the Research Archives maintains a series of open access online resources:

Introduction & Guide

https://oi.uchicago.edu/sites/oi.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/shared/docs/research_archives_introduction%26guide.pdf

An updated introduction and guide to the Research Archives contains a brief history, a guide to the Research Archives collection, and instructions for using the online catalog.

Online Resources

http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/online-resources

Links to important online resources within the fields of ancient Near East studies are provided on this page with a focus on major tools and large databases.

Acquisitions Lists

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/acquisitions-lists-research-archives

The acquisitions reports of the Research Archives are distributed in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on a monthly basis. This process has been active and continuative since September 2007.

Annual Reports

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/research-archives-annual-reports

Annual Reports for the Research Archives are available from 1969 to 2014.

Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/oriental-institute-staff-newsletter

From February 1998 until March 2005 an Oriental Institute Staff Newsletter was circulated among faculty, staff, students, and the wider academic community. In the interest of preservation, remaining copies of the newsletter have been scanned and archived online.

Dissertations

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertations completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Dissertation Proposals

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/dissertations/dissertation-proposals

With the permission of the authors, the Research Archives provides access to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) copies of dissertation proposals completed in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of the University of Chicago.

Adopt-a-Book Campaign

https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/research-archives-library/adopt-book-campaign

The Research Archives has launched an "Adopt-a-Journal" campaign in order to increase support for the Research Archives. Donors are recognized through personalized book plates made in their honor and placed in volumes of their choosing.

Social Media Sites

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Research-Archives-of-the-Oriental-Institute/153645450792

The Research Archives now maintains an official page on Facebook. Information about recent publications of Oriental Institute scholars or reviews of recent Oriental Institute publications is distributed through this page. 3,374 individuals currently follow the Research Archives through this presence on Facebook.

Donations

Donations, both financial and in the form of books, continue to play an important role in the acquisitioning efforts of the Research Archives. A number of books are received through the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and through the Oriental Institute Museum as the Research Archives receives copies of publications that contain images of objects in our collections. Several journal subscriptions are maintained solely through donations of individual library patrons. In the realm of preservation, tattered and aging volumes can often be replaced or supplemented through book gifts and donations are extremely helping in filling past gaps in the collection. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their generous gifts and exchange agreements this year: Bob Aliber, Amelie Beyhum, Gretel Braidwood, British Institute at Ankara, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Andrea Dudek, James L. Foorman, Margaret Foorman, Judith Gillespie, Nadine Goebel, Lewis Gruber, Misty Gruber, James Holland, Mariye C. Inouye, Israel Antiquities Authority Library, Catherine Mardikes, Carol Meyer, Demetria Nanos, Kiersten Neumann, John Perry, Seth Richardson, Roberta Schaffner, David Schloen, Emily Teeter, Ray Tindel, Tom Urban, George Whitesides, Barbara Whitesides, Bruce Williams.

Volunteer Program

Research Archives volunteers constitute 25% of the entire volunteer program of the Oriental Institute. Considering in 2007 the Research Archives did not have a single volunteer, that is an amazing accomplishment. We have been able to accomplish major projects with their help; without them, the incredible increase we've had in digitization, cataloging, and data cleanup would be completely impossible. They continue to devote their time freely and passionately to the us at the Oriental Institute and trust us to use their time wisely. I cannot thank them enough. We all owe sincere gratitude to the following: Eric Aupperle, Joe Barabe, Rebecca Binkley, Alannah Berson, Ray Broms, Betty Bush, Gaby Cohen, Jenna Cordisco, Kim Crawford, Meg Forajter, Emma Gilheany, Irene Glasner, Elizabeth Green, Kate Hodge, Polina Kasian, Kat Jarboe, Alex Jimerson, Elisa Landaverde, Kristin Leasia, Marge Nichols, Roberta Schaffner, Gabriele Correa da Silva, George Thomson, Ian Williams, Amy Zillman.

Visitors

The Research Archives continues to be a place of international collaboration among the community of scholars studying the ancient Near East. Over the past year, we had research visits from the following individuals (in alphabetical order) and I apologize for anyone who may have been missed: Kamila Braulińska, Gene Cruz-Uribe, Eric Hughes, Alex Loktionov, Mitch Miranda, Peter Piccione, Peter Raulwing, Reinert Skumsnes, Fazilat Soukhakian, Pierre Tallet, Steve Vinson, Keely Wardyn, Jennifer Westerfeld, Avi Winitzer, Payman Yadollahpour, Yoshi Yausoka, Rachel Young, and the Great Chicago Libraries class of Elmhurst College.

Staff Acknowledgments

Most of you reading this will have worked with Laura Krenz, Sunwoo Lee, Sasha Rohret, Rebecca Wang, and Ian Williams throughout the year as they helped find books, organize the library, catalog records, or just greet you when you come in. The Research Archives requires a close-knit team to run efficiently and I could never do it alone. I want to thank each of them for all the hard work they put in over the year and for their congenial attitudes in the office. They are excellent employees and coworkers, who make managing the library that much easier.

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